

6th Street Bridge:
Spanning Blackwater Creek
N.E. End of 6th Street
Lynchburg
Lynchburg City
Virginia

HAER No. VA-6

HAER
VA,
16-LYNBU,
11-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

6TH STREET BRIDGE

HAER-VA-6

HAER
VA
16-LYNBU,
11-

Date: 1871-1872

Location: Spanning Blackwater Creek at NE end of Sixth Street

Owner: City of Lynchburg

Significance: Baltimore deck truss bridge. Roadway removed in 1944; bridge now used for pedestrian traffic and to carry a pipe. It is an early surviving example of a pin connected, wrought and cast iron deck truss.

Transmitted by; Gary R. Arabak, 1983

6TH STREET BRIDGE

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Sixth Street Bridge in Lynchburg provides a crossing over the Norfolk and Western Railroad Tracks and Blackwater Creek. Officials of Research and Restoration, Inc. in Richmond state this Baltimore deck truss was built in 1871-72. Plans in the Lynchburg City Hall indicate the bridge was originally used to carry both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. In 1930 a proposal was made to replace the existing 30' wide wooden roadway with a 12' wide reinforced concrete slab designed solely for foot-traffic. Research and Restoration, Inc. reported that this conversion occurred in 1943-44 and sometime afterwards the entire deck was removed. Presently the bridge is only used to support a pipe.

The upper chords of the bridge and the main panel posts are cast iron with hollow, circular cross-sections. These posts support channels between the trusses just below the level of the top chords. The pipe is hung from these channels. All other members of the truss are wrought iron eye-bars and the diagonal bracings can be adjusted with turnbuckles. The bridge is entirely pin connected.